

2007-07-15 Colossians ch2 v1-7 Part Two (Ignite UK)

Last week we began to look at five goals that Paul had for the church in Colossae and the church throughout the ages. And I pray these are not things that we would take lightly. The more I read the book of Colossians the more I see the things we have in common with this church.

- Faithful Church
- Surrounded by False-teacher/ideologies

So the more I see some resemblance to our situation the more I want to make sure we are taking Paul's words to heart. Making sure, we are making these goals our own.

The first three goals called us to stand strong as we stand together, living lives totally devoted to kingdom work while taking hold of the blessings that we have in Christ. These lofty goals require sacrifice, commitment, and self-evaluation on our behalf. I pray that we take these goals and strive towards them. However, Paul is not finished. He has two more goals to give us.

I have found a constant tension as I have studied through these first two chapters. Paul will recognize the Colossians for their faithfulness in one verse then turn and call them to continue to be faithful in the next. He says, "Your doing great, now remember to keep doing this!" I see this as a good principle of leadership. He praises the believers but continues to push them to grow.

In verses 5-7, we find him doing the same thing again:

"For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ." (vs. 5)

Even though Paul is not in Colossae (prison) he lets them know his heart and mind is there with them. He is thinking of them and praying for them.

He has just given them three goals and before moving into the next two, he makes sure to let them know he has heard that they are standing firm in the face of these false-teachers.

The Greek words for "GOOD ORDER" and "FIRMNESS" are military terms. The first word refers to a line of soldiers that have been drawn up for battle. The second term pictures a solid formation of soldiers. Paul, maybe due to his proximity to Roman guards, lets the Colossian church know that he is aware of their success in the midst of these attacks by Satan.

After letting them know this, Paul transitions into the next two goals for the church.

Vs. 6: “Therefore”—builds on the preceding exhortation. He is saying: “Since you have received Jesus as Lord, you are settled in your beliefs about Him, and are standing firm in the faith....

(4) Continue to Walk in Him.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”
(vs.6)

“Walk” is a familiar term in Scripture. Used here it refers to a (daily pattern of life). Here in this context, more specifically, it means to continue to daily hold fast to the truth about Christ. **DON’T LET YOUR CHRISTOLOGY WAVER!!**

They believe Jesus is both fully God and fully man that He alone is Savior and Lord...that is how they received Him and that is how they should continue to see Him.

No doubt, the false-teachers had different views of who Jesus was. Throughout the ages, men have attacked the biblical view of Jesus. In A.D 451, the council of Chalcedon was convened. It was here the church affirmed the biblical account of who Jesus really was. This council refuted numerous heretical views about Christ. However, even today the views of who Jesus is will vary. Nevertheless, the Bible is clear, Jesus is God, He is man, He is both Lord and Savior to all those who trust in Him. So we continue to hold fast to that Christ...the all-sufficient one.

In a broader sense to “walk in Him” means to pattern our daily life after Him.

“The one who says he abides in Him, ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” (1 John 2:6)

Paul calls us to imitate him as he imitates Christ. The believer should desire to be like Jesus.